

Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Designs Unveiled

November 28, 2015

Coin designs honoring the life and legacy of celebrated author unveiled two days before 180th anniversary of his birth

WASHINGTON – The first of several ceremonies to unveil designs for commemorative coins honoring celebrated author Mark Twain took place today at the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal, Mo.

The event took place two days before the 180th anniversary of his birth, with subsequent celebrations planned for the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Conn. (Nov. 30) and Elmira College Center for Mark Twain Studies in New York (Nov. 30).

The coins' designs are emblematic of Twain's life and legacy. The gold coin's obverse design features a portrait of Mark Twain with the inscriptions "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," and "2016." The obverse was designed by Artistic Infusion Program (AIP) artist Benjamin Sowards and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Don Everhart.

The gold coin's reverse design depicts a steamboat on the Mississippi River. Inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "\$5," and "E PLURIBUS UNUM." The reverse was designed by AIP artist Ronald D. Sanders and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Joseph Menna.

The silver coin's obverse design features a portrait of Mark Twain holding a pipe with the smoke forming a silhouette of Huck Finn and Jim on a raft in the background. Inscriptions are "LIBERTY," "IN GOD WE TRUST," and "2016." The obverse was designed by AIP artist Chris Costello and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Michael Gaudio.

The silver coin's reverse design features an assortment of characters leaping to life from Mark Twain's works: The knight and horse from *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, the frog from *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, and Jim and Huck from *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Inscriptions are "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," "\$1," and "E PLURIBUS UNUM." The reverse was designed by AIP artist Patricia Lucas-Morris and sculpted by United States Mint Sculptor-Engraver Renata Gordon.

Public Law 112-201, the Mark Twain Commemorative Coin Act of 2012, authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue not more than 100,000 \$5 gold coins and 350,000 \$1 silver coins in uncirculated and proof qualities. Surcharges collected from coin sales—\$35 for each gold coin and \$10 for each silver coin—are authorized to be distributed as follows:

- One-quarter to the Mark Twain House & Museum in Hartford, Conn., to support the continued restoration of the Mark Twain house and grounds and ensure continuing growth and innovation in museum programming to research, promote, and educate the public on the legacy of Mark Twain
- One-quarter to the University of California, Berkeley, for the benefit of the Mark Twain Project at the Bancroft Library to support programs to study and promote the legacy of Mark Twain
- One-quarter to Elmira College in New York for research and education purposes
- One-quarter to the Mark Twain Boyhood Home and Museum in Hannibal, Mo., to preserve historical sites related to Mark Twain and help support programs to study and promote his legacy.

Additional information will be announced prior to the coins' release in 2016.

About the United States Mint

The United States Mint was created by Congress in 1792 and became part of the Department of the Treasury in 1873. It is the Nation's sole manufacturer of legal tender coinage and is responsible for producing circulating coinage for the Nation to conduct its trade and commerce. The United States Mint also produces numismatic products, including proof, uncirculated, and commemorative coins; Congressional Gold Medals; and silver and gold bullion coins. The United States Mint's numismatic programs are self-sustaining and operate at no cost to taxpayers.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- For information about the United States Mint, please visit [/about/about](#).

- To subscribe to United States Mint electronic product notifications, news releases, and public statements, visit <https://catalog.usmint.gov/email-signup>.
- Sign up for [RSS Feeds](#) from the United States Mint and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#).

#

United States Mint – Connecting America through Coins

Contact

Press Inquiries: Office of Corporate Communications (202) 354-7222

Customer Service Information: (800) USA MINT (872-6468)

Tags:

Commemorative

Press Release

1-800-USA-MINT

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES AND TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS ABOUT PRODUCTS

EMAIL ADDRESS

Subscribe

+1 ### ### ###

Sign Up

[Privacy Policy](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Accessibility](#) [Plug-Ins](#) [Site Map](#)

© 2019 United States Mint All Rights Reserved.